

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-piece golf ball comprising: a core; an intermediate layer surrounding said core; and a cover surrounding said intermediate layer, wherein 20 to 600 voids are distributed in at least one of said core, said intermediate layer or said cover along a spherical surface thereof, wherein each void has a volume of 0.75 to 6 mm³.

2. (Currently Amended) A multi-piece golf ball comprising: a core; an intermediate layer surrounding said core; and a cover surrounding said intermediate layer, wherein 20 to 600 voids are distributed in at least one of said intermediate layer or said cover along a spherical surface of said intermediate layer or said cover, wherein each void has a volume of 0.75 to 6 mm³.

3. (Currently Amended) The multi-piece golf ball according to claim 1 or 2, ~~wherein each void has a volume of 0.75 to 6 mm³,~~ and wherein 20 to 550 voids are ~~provided~~ present.

4. (Currently Amended) The multi-piece golf ball according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the voids have a total volume of 0.5 to 50%

with respect to a volume of the intermediate layer or the cover with the voids.

5. (Currently Amended) The multi-piece golf ball according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the intermediate layer or the cover with the voids has a thickness of 0.5 to 5 mm.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing the multi-piece golf ball ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising: a core; an intermediate layer surrounding said core; and a cover surrounding said intermediate layer, wherein 20 to 600 voids are distributed in at least one of said core, said intermediate layer or said cover along a spherical surface thereof, wherein each void has a volume of 0.75 to 6 mm³, wherein the method comprises the steps of: molding a half shell of the intermediate layer with gaps formed on its inner surface by using a mold with projections on its spherical surface; and molding an assembly of the core and the intermediate layer by covering the core with a pair of the half shells.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of molding the assembly of the core and the intermediate layer by covering the core with the pair of the half shells includes

press-molding at a temperature of 100 to 140°C under a pressure of 0.1 to 20 kg/cm².

8. (New) A method for manufacturing the multi-piece golf ball comprising: a core; an intermediate layer surrounding said core; and a cover surrounding said intermediate layer, wherein 20 to 600 voids are distributed in at least one of said intermediate layer or said cover along a spherical surface of said intermediate layer or said cover, wherein each void has a volume of 0.75 to 6 mm³, wherein the method comprises the steps of: molding a half shell of the intermediate layer with gaps formed on its inner surface by using a mold with projections on its spherical surface; and molding an assembly of the core and the intermediate layer by covering the core with a pair of the half shells.

9. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of molding the assembly of the core and the intermediate layer by covering the core with the pair of the half shells includes press-molding at a temperature of 100 to 140°C under a pressure of 0.1 to 20 kg/cm².

10. (New) The multi-piece golf ball according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the total volume of the voids is 0.5-50% with respect to the volume of the layer in which the voids are formed.

11. (New) The multi-piece golf ball according to claim 1 or 2, wherein 50 to 400 voids are present.

12. (New) The multi-piece golf ball according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the ratio of the total volume of the voids to the volume of the layer with the voids is 0.8-40%.

13. (New) The multi-piece golf ball according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the layer with voids has a Shore D hardness of 70 or less and a JIS-C hardness of 20 or more.